The Acorn

A weekly student newspaper published by the students of the College of Liberal Arts at Drew University.

The Tortoise And — ?

Two weeks ago, an editorial appeared in *The Acorn* which commented on the lack of involvement in the university demontstrated by students; furthermore this editorial introduced a new terminology to describe the absolute lack of anything even vaguely resembling enthusiasm: *"Student Autism"*. Several examples of this phenmomenon were cited, yet were we to rewrite this editorial today, we would have an even better and more powerful example to add to the list: the pitifully poor turnout of candidates for the upcoming student elections.

Were these elections not of such a serious nature, we on the *Acorn* might well commend ourselves on being so astute in the detection of a campus wide trend. Yet the present situation does not leave us with that feeling, rather it is will a feeling of some remorse that we are forced to report on a set of elections in which three extremely important postions are uncontested, and a fourth has no candidates in the race at all.

The central danger of an uncontested election is not so much that it deprives the voters of a choice, nor that it goes against the central precepts of a democratic society, but rather that any candidate who gains office as a result of an election of this type runs the risk of losing not only the respect of his/her constituency, but also, and more importantly, the respect of any individuals or groups with which the official has to deal effectively in order to successfully fulfil the terms of the office. In the case of SGA Presidency, this afore mentioned obstacle could be particularly damaging.

In order to be an effective leader, the individual in the office of SGA President must have not only the backing of the student body, but must also have a strong rapport with the administration, and must be undeniably the spokesperson of the college students. Even though Mr. Levine and his running mate, Mr. Glazer, have the background, experience, enthusiasm, and perserverance to be excellent student leaders, it seems unfortunate that their positions as SGA President and Vice President could be weakened by their being elected as if by virtue of lack of opposition. Based on experience with the achievements of this year's senate, Mssrs. Levine and Glazer appear to be the candidates of the highest calibur, and are individuals possessing the drive necessary to accomplish a great many improvements in the university; yet it is unfortunate that they are being deprived of the added credibility invariably associated with being the victors in a heatedly contested election.

The second uncontested election is in an area which in many cases has a greater direct impact on the lives of a large proportion of the student body. The position in question is that of Social Committee Chairperson. Although Mr. Sheridan's credentials for the position are not under review herein, the position of Social Committee Chairman is one which traditionally attracted a diverse spectrum of candidates offering the campus a choice of not merely individuals, but the type and style of social activities they would like to have for the following year. Even in this most central arena of student involvement, eg. *"Partying"*, the psychotrauma of autism has reached new lows in utter disinterest.

The quintessential example of autistic behavior on the part of an entire populace is evidenced by the complete dearth of candidates for the position of E.C.A.B. Member-at-Large. For those readers who have not as of yet been made aware of the realities of the situation, the E.C.A.B. is the single most powerful organization having a majority of student members on this campus. With that information foremost in one's mind, it seems ludicrous that one of the two freely elected positions on that board has not so much as one single candidate on the ballot for Monday's election. This situation could stem from the fact that until this year, the E.C.A.B. elected positions were filled from one pool of candidates with the candidate having the highest number of votes being named chairman, and the next highest, Member-at-Large. This year the election format was changed, and rightly so, to seperate elections for two positions which differ greatly in both power and the time commitment involved. The extreme danger in this situation is that the position of E.C.A.B. Member-at-Large is now open to any one who generates even a handfull of write-in votes. Considering the nature of the position, a more dependable method of selection would be desirable.

With the polls opening at 9 a.m. Monday, there is little or no time in which to organize an effective write-in campaign, and even if the time were ample, where would these candidates come from; considering the paucity of interest demonstrated so far? The problem does not seem to stem from the structure of the student government itself, rather the elections serve as just one more example of the complete lack of enthusiasm generated by just about everything on this campus. A large proportion of the students enrolled at this university do not seem to care about anything which does not directly effect their supply of oxygen or even more importantly their precious GPA's. This situation is neither healthy, nor is it going to promote the kind of intellectual and social growth stimulated by the extracurricular involvements which are traditionally associated with a college education. While the lack of interest in elected positions of student government for next year is lamentable, it is only one highly visable element in a larger and potentially far more injurious trend. The lack of general involvement in extracurricular activities has been a problem for a great many years; however, the current student body is particularly disinterested.

The point is not worthy of further enumeration, and elaboration by way of additional examples would be little more than a waste of time and space. The individuals who most need chastisement concerning their lack of enthusiasm most likely do not even read the newspaper, and even if they do, they certainly do not read the editorial page. In other words, this entire editorial falls on the literary equivalent of deaf ears. If the seemingly quixotic quest for more student involvement in the university has indeed been waged in vain, then so be it, but at least it has been said, and my conscience is clear.

Letters

Steps Towards a Wet Campus

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, March 15th, I submitted to Dean Newman's office a petition of over 400 signatures to show student support of a bill presently before the New Jersey State Assembly which would lower the drinking age to 19 on college campuses. The petition asks the Administration to "take whatever actions it can to help secure the passage of this bill". Because this statement is somewhat vague, I would like to recommend an action for the Administration to take.

The Administration's first step should be to convey our message of support for he bill directly to the state legislature. While working to defeat the raising of the drinking age, I discovered that our representatives will not seriously consider the opinions of students who live in states and towns other than Madison, New Jersey. The University Administration, will have two major problems: first, the continued decline of student morale caused by the loss of a permanent social drinking place; second, the concern that Theological and Graduate students, upper-classmen, and under-classmen, with fake ID's, will leave the campus on weekends in search of a substitute to the Pub. By leaving campus, they will clearly undermine the purpose of raising the drinking age, which was to keep drunk drivers off the road, and to decrease the number of college students who attend bars in the community.

By supporting this legislation, the Administration and members of the college community (Madison), can keep drinking on the campus, and off the roads.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Duffy Jr.
Freshmen Class Senator

Kurtz Declares ECAB Candidacy

Dear Students:

Hello! My name is Adam Kurtz and I would like to, at this time, announce my candidacy for the position of E.C.A.B. chairman for the upcoming year. As many of you already know, a well-run and organized E.C.A.B. is vital to the many clubs and extracurricular activities here at Drew. As chairman I, Adam Kurtz, will concern myself with running an efficient and effective E.C.A.B. My two years sitting on the University Center Board has given me the experience to make an effective chairman. The UC Board and E.C.A.B. have very similar structures and many similar functions. This experience, gained from the UC Board, certainly makes me the most qualified candidate for E.C.A.B. chairman.

Chairman of E.C.A.B. is not a position to be taken lightly and requires alot of time and effort. A successful chairman must be willing to put a great deal of time and effort into the position. My 100% dedication to fulfilling the many requirements of E.C.A.B. is just one more qualification which will make me the most effective chairman.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and urge you to vote for dedicated and experienced Adam Kurtz for E.C.A.B. chairman.

Thank you,
Adam Kurtz

Listener Opposes D.J.'s Dismissal

To the Editor:

I was greatly upset this last week when I discovered that my favorite DJ on Drew's radio station, WMNJ, had been dismissed. After some inquiry I was told that her program of hardcore punk had offened some listeners. In response, I would like to say that Liz Dalberth had the most original and socially relevant show since "The Combat Zone" (a weekly WMNJ hardcore show that attracted over 200 followers in Chatham, Madison and the Drew Community).

Is WMNJ becoming commercialized? Although there are many shows that play music not heard on professional radio, the emphasis is obviously on the top 40 of the past and present. Who is running the station, Casey Kasum? Small college FM radio should appeal to *all* audiences and not restrict itself to pleasing the general masses. Why else would people listen to a station that is hard to tune to on the dial?

I know of at least two petitions for Liz going around in town and on campus. It doesn't matter if you like hardcore or not, the issue is freedom of speech and choice. If you don't want to see a decent radio station restricted and censored, speak up and fight for your right to listen to your favorite musical alternative.

Jon Moira
(Chatham)

Rosenzweig Declares Candidacy

To the Editors:

At this time , I, Melanie Rosenzweig would like to present to the Drew Community my platform as a candidate for the position of Student Concerns Committe.

The Student Concerns Committee is one of the most important committees on campus. This committee allows us to have direct access to the administration. Hence, through the S.C.C., the administration becomes aware of the students' feelings on issues that directly affect our lives at Drew:

Enforce Safety on Campus- I have been informed that the escort service should be starting again. This is definitely a step in the right direction, and welcomed among the female students here at Drew. I will push for and help work towards an accomplished and well-running escort service.

Food Service- Everyone knows that there can be a great deal done to improve the food service in the Commons. I, as a member of the S.C.C. will work with Seiler's to make meal times in the Commons more pleasant.

Academic Policies- Someone should be working on a way to keep the library open more hours. I would like to propose a new schedule for the hours the library should be opened, to ensure adequate studying time for all Drew students, even if it means removing funds from another area.

Campus Entertainment- At the same time, college should not be all work. For the students that finish their schoolwork, there should be a place on campus where they could go to enjoy themselves. I would like to help the S.G.A. seeing to it that the pub be opened to all students, disregarding their ages.

Commuters' Participation- I want to see to it that the commuters become more a part of the Drew community. One of the ways in which this might be accomplished, is to allow them to have pass keys to all of the dorms on campus, a privelege that resident students now have.

Newsletters- I would like to have published weekly newsletter after each Student Concerns Committee meeting to inform the students exactly what goes on at these meetings. If changes are to be made and problems are to be solved, I feel the entire campus should be made aware of them.

I would like to thank you all for taking the time out to read and consider all of the issues I stated here before voting on March 21st.

Thanks again
Sincerely,
Melanie Rosenzweig

Commentary

Radio, The FCC, and Censorship

by Robert Schnell and Marti Reppetio

OVER the years commercial radio has been dominated by ratings, formulas and profit motives and therefore appeals to the widest audience possible--the lowest common denominator. Because no college radio station can compete with commercial stations in terms of technical quality, its strength has always been in the fact thast it presented programming that appealed to more specialized audiences, that is music that can't be heard anywhere else. This week Drew University's WMNJ undermined this principle with the expulsion of one DJ (and warnings to others) who plays a type of music which is considered offensive to many people--hardcore punk. This is the first time in recent memory that anyone has been thrown off the air for playing a specific form of music.

The reason that this music is considered offensive is due to the fact that some of the songs contain so called "foul" language. The new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Mark S. Fowler, has instituted more liberal policies concerning what can be played on non-commercial stations. The rules however are very ambiguous and perhaps a station could still lose its license in some extreme cases. However the FCC does not have the "iron fist" control that it once had. Bill Silva, a member of the FCC, in a recent interview stated that it is up to the university which owns the station and the listening audience to decide what can be termed offensive. He used the example of George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words" skit. Mr. Silva explained that children could be listening to the broadcast, and this would have an adverse effect on them. However, children are more likely to be watching "R-rated" movies on HBO after dark; and as for the adults who registered complaints, they should have the discretion to turn the radio off or change the station if they are offended.

It would seem, though, that people have a difficult time dealing with songs not on the "top 40" or "classics" list. The listening public also seems to have a grand distaste for socially related songs that take a sarcastic view of their conservative way of life. Hence, complaints come in from scared folks who see anything different as being deviant. However, for every protest that was received, there were at least two favorable comments on the shows in question.

Should WMNJ be part of a control process, an organization based on censorship? Is this the radio station of an open-minded college campus, or the trained pet of an out-dated, unneccessary and entirely superfluous elitist and oligarchic institution? Music is one of the only ways in which new ideas get disseminated in the modern world; and it is within this sphere that the real battles for minds are being fought. Without a doubt, society needs some ideals, symbols, and goals. Where will they come from if all of the new alternatives are stifled by the conservatives in control?

College radio should give students the chance to play what they want, so long as it appeals to some audience, no matter how small. Station like WNYU and WFNU offer alternatives like hardcore punk to much larger audiences than that of WMNJ's tiny radius of transmission. Radio stations that censor their DJ's to keep people quiet and obedient don't offer an alternative, they offer mass-produced music for mass-produced minds. Is this what you want on your campus?

Editor's Note:
The following are excerpts from an FCC Bulletin outlining the newest rules and regulations concerning obscenity.

"The legal test is whether their were uttered "words importing an imprecation of divine vengeance or implying divine condemnation, so used as to constitute a public nuisance." Complaints of such language unaccompanied by evidence of this intention do not normally furnish a basis for Commission action since persons using such expressions seldom intend to be taken literally."

"The commission stated that such language can be broadcast when the number of children is at a minimum, if sufficient warnings are given and if, in the context used, the language has serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."

"The courts have held in many cases that material that may be offensive to some people is not necessarily obscene as a matter of law. The United States Supreme Court adopted the present standard for determining whether a particular printed work is obscene in the case of Miller v. California *(June 21, 1973). That standard is '(a) whether the verage aperson, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; (b) whether the work depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; and (c) whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value." Note that all three elements must be present for material to be found "obscene" under legal standards."*

"Since the Commission may not censor program matter and acts only when a specific law or regulation appears to have been violated, it has consistently recommended that concerned persons direct their comments--preferably in writing--on programming they consider objectionable to the stations and networks involved. In this way broadcasters may become better informed about the reactions and opinions of their audiences."

Letters

Schneller: ECAB Candidacy

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for E.C.A.B. Chairperson. I feel I am qualified for this position for a variety of reasons.

First, I am presently the Division A Student representative on the Budget and Programming Committee, which is responsible for drawing up the entire college budget. I thus have been intimately involved in the budgetary process, and this experience will be very valuable to E.C.A.B.

Second, I have been very active in other extracurricular activities in my three years at Drew. Besides Budget and Programming, I am the Secretary of the Executive Board for WMNJ and a former disc jockey. I have been an active member of the Orientation Committee. Some of my other activites have included Amnesty International, Young Democrats, Spanish Club, and intramural softball and football. Thus, besides my active involvement in campus life, I have also had positions of leadership and always shown my ability to handle responsibilities.

Third, I recognize the importance of the E.C.A.B. in campus affairs. I shall work extremely hard to represent as fairly as possible *all* campus interests.

In short, I feel I am the better candidate for E.C.A.B. Chairperson. I have the experience and interest, as well as the necessary understanding of the responsibilities, to do the best possible job.

Thank you.

Doug Schneller
Class of 1984

Better Food . . . Where?

To The Editors:

Was your editorial about the food service supposed to be serious? I have not noticed any wonderful improvements in Seiler's performance. As a matter of fact, I have been leaving more and more meals feeling pangs of hunger.

It was nice of Seiler's to show such concern over our sugar consumption. However, since I am concerned with the quality of the food that I consume and not the caloric quantity, a change in desserts and the addition of a milkshake machine do not impress me.

After seven semesters of miserable food service I do not expect a miraculous change. But, please, do not condone poor service.

Sincerely,
Steve Steinberg

Silver Survey Success

To The Editors:

On behalf of the Orientation Committee, we would like to express our thanks to all of the Drew community who participated in the Silver Preference survey held on March 1 in the University Center. The survey was used as a fundraiser by the Orientation Committee, and by 3:00 pm the committee had raised a total of $219. We were especially pleased with the turnout, and a special thanks to goes out to those faculty, staff, and students who showed their support of the Orientation Program.

We would also like to thank those people who contributed $1 to our fundraising efforts, even though they could not attend the survey. Thank you again!!

Eric Carrara, Co-Chairperson
Pam Housley, Co-Chairperson
Shawn Rozett, Advisor

Applications are now available for Editorial Positions on next year's Acorn.
Applications can be picked up in the Acorn office afternoons and evenings, and are due no later than April 15. Any student enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts is welcome to apply, but journalism experience is encouraged.

The Editors